Work of construction of fencing on the remaining portion of the Gujarat and Jammu sectors of the Indo-Pak border is in progress.

Apex body to monitor intelligence agencies

359. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Ministry to set up an apex body to monitor IB, RAW and other agencies; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons for setting up of such body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers set up in April, 2000 to review the national security system in its entirety, has recommended, *inter-alia,* the establishment of an Intelligence Coordination Group to provide for systematic Intellegence over sight at the Apex level. The recommendations of the Group of Ministers have been accepted.

Request of West Bengal for additional battalions of BSF

360. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whethger the Chief Minister of West Bengal, in recent meeting with him has asked for twelve additional battalions of Border Security Force to launch joint operation with Central agencies to combat growing ISI activities in the State and to step up vigil along the Indo-Bangla Border;

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction; and

(c) how many additional battalions have since been dispatched to the State in order to ease their difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of West Bengal had, *inter-alia,* mentioned

the requirement of additional Central Para Military Forces in West Bengal during his meeting with the Union Home Minister.

The deployment of Central Para military Force in any State depends upon the overall security scenario in the country and availability of these forces. Keeping in view these constraints, Central Para military Forces, to the extent possible, are already deployed in West Bengal.

Peace talks in Jammu and Kashmir

361. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of broad-based peace talks on Kashmir problem initiated by Government recently inviting unconditionally representations of all sections of people of Jammu and Kashmir including All Party Hurriyat Conference and also other Kashmiri Organisations which are currently engaged in militancy and have shunned negotiated settlement so far;

(b) the reaction of All Party Hurriyat Conference and other militant and non-militant organisations to peace talks and also to the nomination of Shri K.C. Pant as negotiator;

(c) whether Government have formulated any guidelines or time-frame for the peace talks negotiators; and

(d) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Shri K.C. Pant has had interactions with various individuals and representatives of political parties, NGOs, local media, human right bodies, religious heads, etc. for ascertaining their views. He also visited Jammu and Kashmir during May 28th to June 2nd, 2001 for the purpose.

(b) The response has been encouraging so far as people, parties, NGOs etc. are concerned. Neither terrorists outfits nor All Party Hurriyat Conference have responded positively.